

**APPARATUS AND METHOD TO MONITOR THE RELATIVE POSITION OF A
TAPE MEDIUM DISPOSED IN A TAPE DRIVE**

Abstract

A method to monitor the relative position of a magnetic tape disposed in a tape
5 drive, where that tape drive includes a first tape reel motor and a second tape reel motor.
The method provides a magnetic tape disposed on a first tape reel, and releaseably
attaches the first tape reel to the first tape reel motor. The method further provides a
second tape reel attached to the second tape reel motor. The method operates the first
tape reel motor and the second tape reel motor to transfer the tape from the first tape reel
10 onto the second tape reel while maintaining a running second reel rotation count. The
method sets a second reel rotation count limit, and determines if the running second reel
rotation count exceeds that second reel rotation count limit. If the running second reel
rotation count exceeds the second reel rotation count limit, then the method discontinues
operation of the tape reel motors.